

2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20037-3213

T 202.293.7060
F 202.293.7860

www.sughrue.com

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SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

January 26, 2004

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Application of Noboru YAMAJI, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Kunitake ABE,
Osamu OHARA, Takahiro NAGASE and Nobuo NOMURA
NOVEL METALLOPROTEASE HAVING AGGRECANASE ACTIVITY
Assignee: YAMANOUCI PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD., KAZUSA
DNA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Our Ref: **Q79353**

Dear Sir:

This is a request for a Divisional Application of pending prior Application No. 10/009,332 (Confirmation No.: 3848) filed December 10, 2001 of Noboru YAMAJI, Kouichi NISHIMURA, Kunitake ABE, Osamu OHARA, Takahiro NAGASE and Nobuo NOMURA entitled NOVEL METALLOPROTEASE HAVING AGGRECANASE ACTIVITY, which is a National Stage Application filed under §371 of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/07917 filed November 10, 2000.

This application is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). Enclosed is a specification, including the claims and abstract, 8 sheets of drawings, and a copy of the Declaration as filed in the prior application. Also enclosed is a Request to Use Computer-Readable Form of Sequence Listing Submitted in a Co-Pending Patent Application in Accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821(e), along with a copy of the Sequence Listing as filed in the parent application.

The prior application is assigned to Group Art Unit 1652.

Priority is claimed from:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>
Japan	P.Hei. 11-321740	November 11, 1999
Japan	P. 2000-144020	May 16, 2000

The priority documents were received from the International Bureau in parent Application No. 10/009,332.

012604
15915 U.S. PTO

31355 U.S. PTO
10/763210

012604



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Divisional Application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)
of U.S. Appln. No. 10/009,332
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The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	<u>6</u> - 20	=	<u> </u>	x	\$18.00	=	<u> </u>	\$0.00
Independent claims	<u>4</u> - 3	=	<u>1</u>	x	\$86.00	=	<u> </u>	\$86.00
Base Fee								\$770.00

TOTAL FILING FEE	<u>\$856.00</u>
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Please charge the statutory fee of \$856.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

The application is timely filed.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant

By *Susan J. Mack*
Susan J. Mack
Registration No. 30,951

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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